

“IF LINCOLN HAD LIVED”

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“IF LINCOLN HAD LIVED”

Address delivered by John W. Frazier, of the California Regiment, the 71st of the Pennsylvania Line, before Col. W. L. Curry Post, No. 18, Department of Penna., Grand Army of the Republic, .
Thursday Evening, February 11, 1909.

The name and fame of Abraham Lincoln is to-day the theme for thousands of orators of renown, and speakers of distinction throughout the civilized world, but who, of all of them, upon this Centennial Anniversary of the birth of one of the world's greatest statesmen, has taken for his theme: “If Lincoln Had Lived,” and discussed it as the world's greatest pulpit orators, the most eloquent and convincing forum speakers, and the ablest writers for newspaper and magazine could and should consider it; therefore with a view of inviting discussion of a question which should have been considered long ago—which has been already too long delayed—I stand before this Grand Army Post and with all the criticism, all the derision, and the consequences that it may invoke, take as my theme: IF ABRAHAM LINCOLN HAD LIVED.

Had Abraham Lincoln lived the full four years of his second term of the Presidency, instead of about four weeks only, there would never have been written into the political history of the United States that term “Reconstruction of the Seceded States,” invented by Thaddeus Stevens, Edwin M. Stanton, Charles Sumner and Ben Wade, of Ohio.

Had Abraham Lincoln lived there would have been no “carpet bag governments,” in eleven of the Southern States, by adventurers whose reign was plunder, industrial destruction and social ruin.

Had Abraham Lincoln lived, the crusade against American civilization would never have taken place to blight the pages of American history.

Had Abraham Lincoln lived the barrier of long enduring enmity

between the North and the South would never have been reared, and if this propitious Centennial Anniversary of the Birth of Abraham Lincoln will—under the rule of Taft and Knox—result in wholly removing that barrier, then Abraham Lincoln shall not have lived and died in vain, and the name of William Howard Taft will, next to that of Abraham Lincoln, become more deeply enshrined in the hearts of the American people than that of any other American citizen since the close of the Civil War.

THE UNION AS IT WAS.

From the day of his nomination until the hour of that tragic death which shrouded a Nation in gloom—for it is my belief that not a soldier or civilian of the South but deplored his untimely death—one great principle and purpose was ever prevalent in the heart and mind of Abraham Lincoln. THE PRESERVATION OF THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY—THE UNION AS IT WAS.

On the 6th day of November, 1860, Abraham Lincoln—in conformity with the provisions and laws of the Nation—was elected President of the United States.

On the 11th day of February, 1861, he left his home in Springfield, Illinois, for Washington, and to thousands of his fellow-citizens, friends and neighbors, who assembled at the railroad station to bid him an affectionate farewell, he said :

“My friends: No one not in my position can appreciate the sadness I feel at this parting. To this people I owe all that I am. Here I have lived more than a quarter of a century. Here my children were born, and here one of them lies buried. I know not how soon I shall see you again. A duty devolves upon me which is perhaps greater than that which has devolved upon any other man since the days of Washington. He never would have succeeded except for the aid of Divine Providence, upon which he at all times relied. I feel that I cannot succeed without the same Divine aid which sustained him, and in the same Almighty Being I place my reliance for support; and I hope that you my friends will all pray that I may receive that Divine assistance, without which I cannot succeed, but with which success is certain. Again, I bid you all an affectionate farewell.”

I refer to that parting scene for the purpose of showing the unfaltering trust Abraham Lincoln placed in the Almighty Being, and to say that the man who relied upon Divine Providence as he

did, throughout his whole term of the Presidency, could not go wrong.

On his way to Washington, Mr. Lincoln spoke in many cities, among them Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Albany, New York, Trenton and Philadelphia, where he raised an American flag over Independence Hall, and in addressing the people of Philadelphia, Mr. Lincoln, standing in the sacred edifice, said:

"I assure you and your Mayor that I had hoped on this occasion, and upon all occasions during my life, to do nothing inconsistent with the teachings of these holy and most sacred walls. I never asked anything that does not breathe from these walls. All my political warfare has been in favor of the teachings that come forth from these sacred walls. All the political sentiments I entertain have been drawn, so far as I have been able to draw them, from the sentiments which originated and were given to the world from this Hall. I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence. May my right hand forget its cunning, and my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if ever I prove false to those teachings. I have said nothing but what I am willing to live by, and, if it be the pleasure of Almighty God, to die by."

LINCOLN'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

On the 4th of March, 1861, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated the sixteenth President of the United States, and in the presence of many thousands of people he said:

"Fellow-citizens of the United States: In compliance with a custom as old as the Government itself, I now appear before you to address you briefly, and to take, in your presence, the oath prescribed by the Constitution of the United States, to be taken by the President before he enters on the execution of his office.

"Apprehension seems to exist among the people of the Southern States, that, by the accession of a Republican Administration, their property, and their peace, and their personal security are to be endangered. There has never been any reasonable cause for such apprehension. Indeed, the most ample evidence to the contrary has all the while existed. It is found in nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you. I do but quote from one of those speeches, when I declare that 'I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists.' I believe I have no lawful right to do so; and I have no inclination to do so. Those who nominated and elected me did so with the full knowl-

edge that I made this, and many similar declarations, and had never recanted them.

"I now reiterate these sentiments, and in doing so, I only press upon the public attention the most conclusive evidence of which the case is susceptible, that the property, peace and security of no section are to be endangered by the incoming administration.

"I add, too, that all the protection which, consistently with the Constitution and the laws, can be given, will be cheerfully given to all the States when lawfully demanded, for whatever cause, as cheerfully to one section as to another.

"A disruption of the Federal Union, heretofore only menaced, is now formidably attempted. I hold that in the contemplation of universal law and of the Constitution, the Union of these States is perpetual. Physically speaking, we cannot separate—we cannot remove our respective sections from each other, nor build an impassable wall between them. I therefore consider that, in view of the Constitution, and the laws, **THE UNION IS UNBROKEN**, and to the extent of my ability, I shall take care, as the Constitution expressly enjoins upon me, that the laws of the Union shall be faithfully executed in all the States."

And Abraham Lincoln closed his first inaugural message to the American people with these words of tender pathos:

"Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still competent to adjust, **IN THE BEST WAY**, all our present difficulties.

"I am loth to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.

"The mystic cords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

Do you believe that the Patriot-Statesman, the great-hearted Abraham Lincoln, who solemnly made these declarations, would have broken the bonds of affection between the North and the South, by kicking eleven States out of the Union after the people of those States had laid down their arms in good faith, and depriving them of Statehood in the American Union until the rule of plunder, industrial destruction, and social ruin could go no further in the scale of degradation, under the infamous reign of "Carpet-bag" adventurers, and their compatriots, the lowest and most ignorant, and most brutal negroes of the South.

LINCOLN'S FIRST MESSAGE.

In pursuance to the call of the President, Congress assembled in extraordinary session on July 4, 1861, and received from the Executive his first message, and in that public document, prepared with great deliberation, President Lincoln used these words:

"Lest there be some uneasiness in the minds of candid men as to what is to be the course of the Government toward the Southern States, after the rebellion shall have been suppressed, the Executive deems it proper to say it will be his purpose, then, as ever, to be guided by the Constitution and the laws, and that he probably will have no different understanding of the powers and duties of the Federal Government relatively to the rights of the States, and the people under the Constitution, than that expressed in his inaugural address. HE DESIRES TO PRESERVE THE GOVERNMENT, THAT IT MAY BE ADMINISTERED FOR ALL, AS IT WAS ADMINISTERED BY THE MEN WHO MADE IT.

"The Executive sincerely hopes that your views and your actions may so accord with his as to assure all faithful citizens who have been disturbed in their rights of a speedy restoration to them under the Constitution and the laws; and, having thus chosen our cause without guile, and with pure purpose, let us renew our trust in God, and go forward without fear, and with manly hearts."

LINCOLN'S PLAN FOR RE-ESTABLISHING STATE GOVERNMENTS.

Accompanying President Lincoln's annual message to Congress on December 9, 1863, was a proclamation offering for the acceptance of the people of the South a plan by which they might return to their allegiance to the United States and to full American citizenship. That important public document proclaimed that:

"WHEREAS, It is now desired by some persons heretofore engaged in rebellion to resume their allegiance to the United States, and to re-inaugurate loyal State governments within and for their respective States;

"Therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do proclaim, declare, and make known to all persons who have, directly or by implication, participated in the existing rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted, that a FULL PARDON is hereby granted to them and to each of them, with restoration of all rights of property, except as to slaves, and in property cases where rights of third parties shall have intervened, and upon the condition that every such person shall take and subscribe an oath, and thereafter keep and maintain said oath, of allegiance inviolate.

"And I do further proclaim, declare and make known, that whenever, in any of the States of Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee,

Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia, a number of persons, not less than one-tenth in number of the votes cast in such State at the Presidential election of the year of our Lord, 1860, each having taken the oath aforesaid, and not having since violated it, and being a qualified voter by the election laws of the State existing immediately before the so-called act of secession, and excluding all others, shall re-establish a State government which shall be Republican in form, and in nowise contravening said oath, **SUCH SHALL BE RECOGNIZED AS THE TRUE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE**, and the State shall receive thereunder the benefits of the constitutional provision, which declares that the United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion and domestic violence.

“And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known that any provision which may be adopted by such State Government in relation to the freed people of such State, which shall recognize and declare their permanent freedom, provide for their education, and which may yet be consistent, as a temporary arrangement, with their present condition as a laboring, landless and homeless class will not be objected to by the National Executive. And it is suggested as not improper, that, in constructing a loyal State Government in any State, the name of the State, the boundary, the subdivisions, the Constitution, and the general code of laws, **AS BEFORE THE REBELLION, BE MAINTAINED**, subject only to the modifications hereinbefore stated, and such others, if any, not contravening said conditions, and which may be deemed expedient by those framing the new State Government.

“This proclamation is intended to present to the people of the States wherein the National authority has been suspended, and loyal State Governments have been subverted, a mode in and by which the National authority and loyal State Governments may be re-established within the said States, or in any of them; and, while the mode presented is the best, the Executive can suggest, with his present impressions, it must not be understood that no other possible mode would be acceptable.

“Given under my hand at the City of Washington, the eighth day of December, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-eighth.

“By the President:

“**ABRAHAM LINCOLN.**

“**Wm. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.**”

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S LAST SPEECH.

During the last week of March and the first week of April, 1865, Mr. Lincoln was with the Army of the Potomac, at Petersburg, City Point and Richmond, and while in Richmond it became known to him that the surrender of Lee's Army was inevitable within the next

few days. Mr. Lincoln, therefore, drafted the terms of surrender in that kindly spirit of conciliation characteristic of the man and the President—he was there for that very purpose—and which were embraced in the letter from Gen. U. S. Grant to Gen. Robert E. Lee, dated Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865, and which easy, honorable terms were readily accepted by Gen. Lee, and his veteran soldiers.

On the evening of April 11, 1865, the people, happy at the prospect of a speedy peace, serenaded President Lincoln at the White House. The question of restoring the States of the South to their proper place in the Union was uppermost in his mind and heart, and as that responsive speech was the last President Lincoln made upon this earth, I am sure you will pardon the trespass I make upon your patience in giving it. Said Mr. Lincoln:

“We meet this evening not in sorrow, but in gladness of heart. The evacuation of Petersburg and Richmond, and the surrender of the principal insurgent army, give hopes of a righteous and speedy peace, whose joyous expression cannot be restrained. In the midst of this, however, He from whom all blessings flow must not be forgotten. A call for a National Thanksgiving is being prepared, and will be duly promulgated.

“Nor must those whose harder part gives us the cause for rejoicing be overlooked. Their honors must not be parceled out with others. I myself was near the front, and had the high pleasure of transmitting much of the good news to you. But no part of the honor or execution is mine. To General Grant, his skillful officers and brave men, all belongs. The gallant navy stood ready, but was not in reach to take part. By these recent successes, the re-inauguration of the National authority is pressed much more closely upon our attention. It is fraught with great difficulty. Unlike a war between independent nations, there is no authorized organ for us to treat with. No one man has authority to give up the rebellion for any other man. We must simply begin with and mould from disorganized and discordant elements.

“In the annual message of December, 1863, and the accompanying proclamation, I presented a plan of reconstruction, *as the phrase goes*, WHICH I PROMISED, IF ADOPTED BY ANY STATE, WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO AND SUSTAINED BY THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT OF THE NATION. I distinctly stated that this was not the only plan which might, possibly, be acceptable; and I also distinctly protested that the Executive claimed no right to say when, or whether, members should be admitted to seats in Congress from such States.

“The new constitution of Louisiana, declaring emancipation for the whole State practically applies the proclamation to the part previously

excepted. It does not adopt apprenticeship for freed people, and is silent, as it could not well be otherwise, about the admission of members to Congress. So that, as it applied to Louisiana, every member of the Cabinet fully approved the plan.

"The message went to Congress, and I received many commendations of the plan, written and verbal, and not a single objection to it, from any professed emancipationist, came to my knowledge until after the news reached Washington that the people of Louisiana had begun to move in accordance with it. From about July, 1862, I had corresponded with different persons supposed to be interested in seeking a State Government for Louisiana. When the message of 1863, with the plan before mentioned, reached New Orleans, Gen. Banks wrote me that he was confident that the people, with his military co-operation, would reconstruct substantially on that plan. I WROTE TO HIM AND SOME OF THEM TO TRY IT. They tried it, and the result is known. Such has been my only agency in getting up the Louisiana Government. AS TO SUSTAINING IT, MY PROMISE IS OUT, AS BEFORE STATED. But as bad promises are better broken than kept, I shall treat this as a bad promise, and break it whenever I shall be convinced that keeping it is adverse to the public interest; but *I have not yet been so convinced.*

"We all agree that the seceded States, so called, are out of their proper practical relation with the Union, and that the sole object of the Government, civil and military, in regard to those States is to again get them into their practical relation. I believe that it is not only possible, but, in fact, easier, to do this without deciding, or even considering, whether those States have ever been out of the Union, than with it. Finding themselves safely at home, it would be utterly immaterial whether they had been abroad. Let us all join in doing the acts necessary to restore the proper practical relations between those States and the Nation, and each forever after innocently indulge his own opinion whether in doing the acts he brought the States from without into the Union, or only gave them proper assistance, they never having been out of it.

"The amount of constituency, so to speak, on which the Louisiana Government rests, would be more satisfactory to all if it contained 50,000, or 30,000, or even 20,000, instead of 12,000, as it does. It is also unsatisfactory to some that the elective franchise is not given to the colored man. I would myself prefer that it were now conferred on the very intelligent, and on those who serve our cause as soldiers.

"Still the question is not whether the Louisiana Government, as it stands, is quite all that is desirable. The question is, will it be wiser to take it as it is, and help to improve it, or reject and disperse? Can Louisiana be brought into proper practical relation sooner by sustaining, or by discarding her new State government? Some twelve thousand voters in the heretofore slave State of Louisiana have sworn allegiance to the Union, assumed to be the rightful political power of the State, held elections, organized a State government, adopted a Free State constitution, giving the benefit of public schools equally

to black and white, and empowering the Legislature to confer the elective franchise on the colored man.

"This Legislature has already voted to ratify the constitutional amendment recently passed by Congress, abolishing slavery throughout the Nation. These 12,000 persons are thus fully committed to the Union and to perpetuate freedom in the State; committed to the very things, and nearly all things the Nation wants, and they ask the Nation's recognition and its assistance to make good this committal.

"Now if we reject and spurn them, we do our utmost to disorganize and disperse them. We say to the white man, you are worthless or worse; we will neither help you nor be helped by you. To the blacks we say: This cup of liberty which these, your old masters, held to your lips, we will dash from you, and leave you to the chances of gathering the spilled and scattered contents in some vague and undefined when, where, and how.

"If this course, discouraging and paralyzing both white and black, has any tendency to bring Louisiana into proper practical relations with the Union, I have so far been unable to perceive it. If, on the contrary, we recognize and sustain the new government of Louisiana, the converse of all this is made true. We encourage the hearts and nerve the arms of 12,000 to adhere to their work, and argue for it, and proselyte for it, and fight for it; and feed it, and grow it, and ripen it to a complete success.

"The colored man, too, in seeing all united for him, is inspired with vigilance, and energy, and daring to the same end. Grant that he desires the elective franchise, will he not attain it sooner by saving the already advanced steps toward it than by running backward over them? Concede that the new government of Louisiana is to what it should be as the egg is to the fowl, we will sooner have the egg by hatching the egg than smashing it.

"Can Louisiana be brought into proper practical relation with the Union sooner by sustaining or discarding her new State government? **WHAT HAS BEEN SAID OF LOUISIANA WILL APPLY TO OTHER STATES.** And yet so great peculiarities pertain to each State, and such important and sudden changes occur in the same State, and withal so new and unprecedented is the whole case that no exclusive and inflexible plan can safely be prescribed as to details and collaterals. Such exclusive and inflexible plan would surely become a new entanglement. Important principles may and must be inflexible. In the present situation, as the phrase goes, *it may be my duty to make some new announcement to the people of the South.* I am considering, and shall not fail to act when satisfied that action will be proper."

HAD ABRAHAM LINCOLN LIVED.

It is a high honor, it is a great pleasure, this Post gives me in thus permitting me to show how Abraham Lincoln, had he lived, would have restored the States of the South "to their proper prac-

tical relation with the Union"—and it has my sincerest thanks for that honor—but by a strange fatality, that policy of Christianity, Patriotism, Statesmanship, and, withal, American Honor, was estopped by the hand of the assassin, John Wilkes Booth, and the policy of "Malice towards none, of Charity towards all," was quickly superceded by the reign of the "carpet bagger," with Malice towards all, with Charity towards none, and for many years our brethren of the South were dominated by a so-called government that was a hideous nightmare of infamy for them.

That bullet of the assassin brought more distress, disaster and dishonor upon the South than all the bullets fired by the two million Union soldiers during the entire period of the Civil War.

The "Farewell Address" of George Washington to the people of the United States, formally issued September 17, 1796, was a document prepared with great care and deliberation. It is one of the gems of American history.

That Farewell Address of Abraham Lincoln on the evening of April 13th was the spontaneous utterance of a heart exuberant with gratitude that the four years of bloody strife had ended, and that an honorable peace was about to be proclaimed. It was the last public and solemn declaration of President Lincoln as to how he would restore the States of the South to their proper practical relation with the Union, and as such it ought to become of inestimable value upon this auspicious recurrence of the name and fame of Abraham Lincoln.

LINCOLN'S HEROIC COURAGE.

The courage of Abraham Lincoln, like his statesmanship, was of heroic mould. He did in 1864 what no candidate for the Presidency, or National Convention of either the Republican or Democratic Party, has done since the Civil War—take a candidate for Vice-President from the South.

The Republican ticket for 1860 was Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois, and Hannibal Hamlin, of Maine. The Republican ticket for 1864 was Abraham Lincoln, and Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, and at that time the State of Tennessee was in revolt against the government of the United States, but Lincoln was in earnest in his

profession of tender regard for the South, and he meant to prove it. The opportunity came in naming a candidate for Vice-president. It required courage of the highest order to drop Mr. Hamlin—a man of exalted character—and go to a State in rebellion for a Vice-presidential candidate. Lincoln had such courage, and it led him to force the nomination of Andrew Johnson.

“Can’t you find a candidate for Vice-President without going down into a damned rebel province?” asked Thaddeus Stevens, in the Baltimore Convention, of Gen. Simon Cameron and Col. A. K. McClure. With the single exception of Stevens’ vote, Pennsylvania cast a unanimous vote for Johnson.

“Old Ben” Wade exercised a controlling influence in Ohio politics, and when President Lincoln intimated to the Ohio Senator that it would have a tendency to nationalize the Republican party by taking a “War Democrat” like Johnson for Vice-president, and that such a nomination would prove the most effective method of preventing a recognition of the Southern Confederacy by England and France, Wade, whose hatred of the South was equaled only by that of Stevens and Stanton, and who was as profane as either of them, turned upon the President with pompous venom and said: You, Mr. President, are responsible for all the military and political blunders that have overwhelmed us, but to go to a damned Rebel State for a Vice-president is the damndest of all your blunders. You seem bent on running the government to hell, and you are now only about a mile away from it.”

The President manifested no displeasure at the profane utterance of a Senator of the United States, and, with that smile characteristic of him when he was about to reply with a joke that went home, asked: “Isn’t that just about the distance from the White House to where this House and Senate assemble?” Both Wade and Stevens refused to support Johnson for Vice-president.

WILL LINCOLN’S MANTLE GO TO TAFT?

“I came to Georgia to capture the South, but the South has captured me,” was the felicitous manner in which President-elect Taft expressed himself at a possum love-feast in Atlanta, January 15th last. President Taft will do much to capture the South;

to make his name and his administration highly honorable alike in the North and the South, if in making appointments of Judges, United States Attorneys, Collectors of Revenue and Postmasters he will select men of marked intelligence, high character, men whose upright life commands the confidence of the community in which they live; but if he would reach for the mantle of Abraham Lincoln, let him go to Tennessee—for reasons of family pride and name I prefer Tennessee—or Georgia or some other Southern State for a Vice-presidential candidate in 1912, as Lincoln did in 1864. — — — Perhaps no one could win and wear the mantle worn by Abraham Lincoln, but if President Taft would share renown with Lincoln, the way is open and it leads Southward. The time to again nominate a Republican ticket from the North and the South—as Abraham Lincoln nominated it 44 years ago—cannot come any too soon. It has already been too long delayed.

The terms of capitulation dictated by President Lincoln, and readily and honestly accepted by Gen. Lee, on behalf of his Army of Northern Virginia, are the shortest and most soldierly terms ever entered into by the commanding officers of two great contending armies. I give them in full:

"APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, April 9th.

*"Gen. Robert E. Lee, Army C. S.:—*In accordance with the substance of my letter to you of the 8th inst., I propose to receive the surrender of the army of Northern Virginia on the following terms, to wit: Rolls of all the officers and men to be made in duplicate, one copy to be given to an officer designated by me, the other to be retained by such officer as you may designate; the officers to give their individual paroles not to take up arms against the Government of the United States until properly exchanged, and each company or regimental commander to sign a like parole for the men of their commands. The arms, artillery and public property to be packed and stacked, and turned over to the officers appointed by me to receive them. This will not embrace the side-arms of the officers, nor their private horses or baggage. This done, each officer and man will be allowed to return to their homes, not to be disturbed by the United States authority so long as they observe their parole, and the laws in force where they may reside.

"Very respectfully,
"U. S. Grant,
"Lieutenant-General."

Gen. Lee and his veteran soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia went from Appomattox to their homes with a higher regard

for President Lincoln and General Grant and the Union Army than it seemed possible for them to entertain, and that regard, which began at Appomattox, would have broadened and ripened into full Fraternity if Lincoln had lived, but the hand of the assassin intervened, and the policy of "Reconstruction of the Seceded States," inaugurated by Stevens, Stanton, Sumner and Wade, was put into force immediately upon the death of Abraham Lincoln. That policy threw the white men of the South prone upon their backs and kept them at the mercy of that class of Reconstruction officials that Union veteran soldiers designated as "camp followers, sutlers, ~~country~~ *bounty* jumpers and coffee coolers," but whom history records as "carpet baggers."

Thank God that those frightful "Reconstruction" times, under "carpet-bag" rule, have forever ended, and that under a President of the United States, "residing in the city of Augusta, Georgia, at the time of his election," the brightest, happiest, and most prosperous era the South—and with the South, the whole Country—has ever known, has begun with this world-wide celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

JOHN W. FRAZIER,
4914 HAZEL AVENUE,
PHILADELPHIA, PA.



John W. Frazier
Fisk Mission